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Fifth Freedom, 1974-03-10

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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Vol. 4 No. 2

Fifth Freedom

March 10, 1974



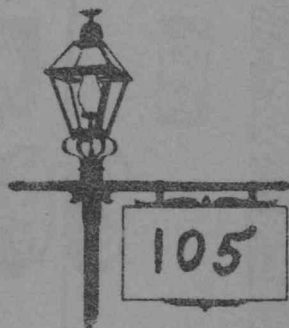
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The Mattachine Society of the
Niagara Frontier, P.O. Box 975
Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y.
14205. Tel. (716)881-5335

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If you have any comments or contributions, send them to the above address, attn: FIFTH FREEDOM

ADVERTISING RATES: 1/3 column-\$2.50; 1/3 page-\$5.00; 1/2 page-\$7.50; full page-\$15.00. To place an ad, please call or write the Gay Community Services Center at 45 Allen St., Buffalo, N.Y., 14202, (716)881-5335 and a salesperson will call and compose your ad with you. More information available at the above number. Please make all checks/m.o.'s payable to Mattachine Society.

NOTE: The appearance of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in this publication is not an indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The FIFTH FREEDOM is published at 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, N.Y. It has a circulation of 1200 copies which are distributed at no charge.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your help these past few months. We couldn't have made it alone. In this cold and sometimes indifferent world we find ourselves in, we often think that people don't feel nor care about anything or anyone except themselves. It's nice to have our faith in humanity restored occasionally and the people of Mattachine certainly have done that for us.

It is a terrible feeling to think you are alone and helpless, and I certainly hope we never find ourselves in such a position again. I hope that when our turn comes to help someone, we will be able to be as gracious as all of you have been.

Again we would like to say to all of you--Thank you--for your help when we needed it.

Sincerely,
Two Thankful People

***** SUBSCRIBE NOW *****

Subscribe to the FIFTH FREEDOM and show your support for the work Mattachine is doing. Send \$4.00 to the FIFTH FREEDOM, c/o Mattachine Society, P.O. Box 975 Ellicott Sta. Buffalo, N.Y. 14205, for one year's subscription. Please make check or money order payable to Mattachine Society.

THE BAR ISSUE by Don Michaels

The gay bar situation in Buffalo has never been good. Whenever a new bar opens, the first question in everyone's mind is "How long will it stay open?" The Vice Squad and the S.L.A. have closed so many gay bars in the past several years that it seems like they're playing a game of musical chairs.

Mattachine has, in the past, taken a "hands off" attitude toward the problems of the bars. However, it is now apparent that due to the backward policies of the Buffalo Police Vice Squad and the State Liquor Authority, an atmosphere has been created at the gay bar level that is clearly oppressive to any gay person that wishes to use the bars to give expression to their social needs. Bar closings by Vice Squad/S.L.A. actions and subsequent overreaction by other bar owners to these closings, by instituting policies of 'no touch-no slow dancing,' has created an intolerable situation for all of us.

Concern and indignation has mounted to the point where a group of us in Mattachine met to discuss the situation and determine what we, as an organization, could do to correct it. It was determined that what was needed was a definite statement of what the gay community would feel comfortable with as basic policy guidelines for bar owners. We felt that if bar owners were going to benefit as business people from what is essentially a 'captive' clientele, they should be willing to help create a freer and more open atmosphere. It was apparent that we had to deal with the situation at more than just bar level if we were to be effective. Therefore, in addition to setting down policy guidelines for the bar owners, we decided also to meet with the Vice Squad and the State Liquor Auth.

From these perspectives we drew up a set of bar guidelines based on observations of charges used by the S.L.A. in the past, unacceptable practices by various bars, common sense rules and, most importantly, legal rulings defining acceptable conduct in the bars. In conjunction with this we arranged meetings with Capt. Kennedy of the Vice Squad and Deputy Commissioner Coffey, head of the local S.L.A. office, to discuss our policy guidelines and confront them on their prejudice toward gays. The following is a brief outline of the policy guidelines drawn up for the bars:

- 1) Bars should not discriminate because of race, sex or age.
- 2) Bars should end their 'no touch' policies and allow such forms of touch as hugging, kissing, holding of hands and SLOW DANCING. This is based on a N.Y. State Court of Appeals decision defining where the line should be drawn in terms of 'touch' in bars: "the line must be drawn at public feeling of private parts. In this regard, we would not distinguish between the activities of homosexuals and that of heterosexuals."

als." (from: "Becker v. N.Y.S. Liq Auth - 21 N.Y. 2d 289)

- 3) Bar personal should direct their policing activities away from prohibiting permissible forms of touch and concentrate on preventing such violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law as open sex, serving of minors, and preventing fights and use of drugs.

Other guidelines covered utilization of local precinct police to help quell disturbances that get out of hand and adhering to Buffalo Fire Dept. Codes. Our initial step was to present the guidelines to the bar owners and all but one expressed open willingness to cooperate, pending the outcome of our meetings with the Vice Squad and the S.L.A.

We then met with Mr. Coffey of the S.L.A. and Capt. Kennedy of the Vice Squad and found the two meetings to be highly productive in that we made both men well aware of our position regarding what we feel has been overt prejudice on their part and in terms of securing support for our guidelines. Both men were familiar with the court decision we referred to and both said that that decision guided their policy actions. Both Mr. Coffey and Capt. Kennedy expressed good opinions about the bar guidelines and both specifically stated that if the bars followed the guidelines they would not have any problems with the Vice Squad or the S.L.A.

Mr. Coffey denied any prejudice toward gays by the S.L.A. When we disputed his denials by citing specific instances that have occurred recently, he dealt with it by saying he had no knowledge of the incidents. Mr. Coffey did state full knowledge of a Court of Appeals ruling that declared that the mere gathering of homosexuals does not constitute disorderly conduct. Capt. Kennedy also emphasized that the fact that a bar caters to gay clientele does not influence his men in any way. He stated that the 2 violations that his department vigorously pursues are open sex acts and the serving of minors.

Our next step is to have a second meeting with each of the bar owners and discuss with them, in detail, the results of our meetings with Mr. Coffey and Capt. Kennedy. Basically, both of these men feel that any rigid policies on the part of the bar owners are simply self-imposed by the owners and that any blame being leveled against the S.L.A. and the Vice Squad is unjust and simply a result of misunderstandings. On the other hand, several of the bar owners claim that any departure from the rigid policies subjects them to undue scrutiny and harassment from the Vice Squad.

At this time we can only assess the situation with a fair degree of optimism based on our talks with Mr. Coffey and Capt. Kennedy. There has been a perceptible change in the policies of at least one recently opened bar and we should hope that the rest follow suit shortly. We definitely can state that there is no need for a 'no touch-no slow dancing' policy on the part of any bar owner and that if the bars accept our guidelines (con't to p.14)

Mattachine

41 persons attended a most interesting, informative General Meeting held at the Center, Sunday, March 3rd. Most Committee heads presented brief summaries of current activities, future plans—WOW, we're busy.

Recently announced local bar policy statement, having been discussed with bar owners, Capt. Kennedy, Buffalo Police Dept., and Dennis Coffey of the New York State Liquor Authority, seems headed for general acceptance, better communication, and improved conditions. Congratulations to those who worked so hard on this to date.

Petitions for repeal of the State's Sodomy Law are under way by U.B.'s Gay Liberation Front. Mattachine to cooperate, help and support—all are asked to sign and urge others to help us overcome this repressiveness.

Federal class action legal suit is now under way in Washington, D.C. to secure tax exempt status for Gay Organizations—Buffalo is one of the petitioning groups.

New hours at the Gay Community Services Center—Daily 3PM to 10PM, weekends same as before. If in need call any of 14 counselors during open hours or use our answering service. Recent VD clinic and program held at the Center was a great success.

People are aware of Mattachine, help us continue building positive attitudes—join and help your gay sisters and brothers.

LAWs, Courts AND HOMOSEXUALITY

A question AND ANSWER session
with Judge Joseph MATTINA, County
Court Justice.

SUN. MAR. 17th, 8PM Gay Center 45 ALLEN ST.

January 1, 1974
Olivia Records
P.O. Box 1784
Main City Station
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Sisters:

We are a group of lesbian feminists creating a record company called Olivia Records. There are hundreds of women across the country who are creating women's music, music that reflects our experiences, thoughts, and emotions, and is another part of a growing women's culture. We feel that these women should have access to the recording industry and so be able to be heard in all our communities. Olivia Records is being created just for this purpose, a national women's recording company. We are interested in high quality music that is not oppressive to women; music that can be, but does not have to be, overtly political; music that comes from and speaks to all facets of our lives.

Olivia Records will become as independent as possible from the male-supremacist economic system. We will employ only women and will provide those jobs for each other at living wages. We recognize the importance for working out class, race, and age differences among all employees, and it is important that Olivia be a non-oppressive institution in which people can grow and create. It will be operated on a collective basis, in which musicians will control their music, and other workers will control their working conditions.

We will set up our own distribution system and our records will be available to large numbers of women throughout the U.S. and Canada. Any profit made on the sale of the records will go back into the company. No one will get rich at Olivia, but everyone will earn a decent wage, working at something we are creating for ourselves and future feminists.

Olivia Records needs engineers, producers, promotionists, financial managers, distributors, musicians, lawyers, accountants, etc. We need your help. If you are a musician, send us a tape (cassette, reel-to-reel) of your work. Or just send us a letter and tell what you do or where your interest might lie.

We have just finished producing our first record, a 45 rpm of Meg Christian and Cris Williamson to be used for fund-raising, which will be available soon. We start producing our first LP in the next few months, so get in touch with us as soon as you read this. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ginny Barson and Helaine
Harris for Olivia Records

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WED., 3/13, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C.* Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation"
Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 3/15, 7PM-?: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- SAT., 3/16, 9PM-1AM: Dance and Mini-Carnival at the Unitarian Hall, See notice inside FIFTH FREEDOM.
- SUN., 3/17, 8PM: Mattachine Program Meeting, G.C.S.C., Judge Joseph Mattina, Erie County Justice to speak and answer your questions on homosexuality and the law.
- MON., 3/18, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union, U.B. Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho"
Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 3/20, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation"
Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 3/22, 7PM-?: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- MON., 3/25, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union, U.B. Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho"
Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 3/27, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation"
Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 3/29, 7PM-?: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- MON., 3/31, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union, U.B., Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho"
Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 4/3, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation"
Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 7PM-?: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- SUN., 4/7, 8PM: Mattachine Business Meeting with full committee reports-agenda to follow in the next issue.

Until further notice, the G.C.S.C. will open at 3PM weekdays instead of 1 PM due to a lack of staff at the present time. If you would like to staff at the Center in the afternoon or at any other time, please contact Greg Bodekor at the Center for details.

Mattachine is planning an auction tentitively for sometime in May to help raise money to keep our many functions-the Center, Counseling, Speaker's Bureau, Publications, Legal Referral, Health Committee, etc. alive and well. Please start collecting items that can be donated and auctioned off. A great deal of money can be raised if everyone would help in a small way. Thank you.

*G.C.S.C.- Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, New York, 14202, Tel. # (716) 881-5335, 881-5336

The Shadows

Only the Shadows, Knows
and goes.

Meet Dodo & Lenny

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OPEN AT 8PM-3AM NIGHTLY

New dance floor-(new sound system
from 10:00-3:00AM every night)

Sun. Buffet 7-9

Cocktail Hour 5-7

Delaware At Virginia

Recently, an article entitled "Women's Lib Chain Reaction Worries 'Hotline' Doctor," appeared in the Buffalo Courier Express. The article, of which pertinent quotes are reprinted, deals with the supposed danger to our society inherent in "female dominance." The doctor, as a 'good' Christian and 'Hotline' doctor feels that women should be in no way ashamed of their "traditional roles in our society. The doctor finds considerable evidence for this opinion in the Bible which "contains answers to all human needs."

The doctor doesn't end at this point, however, and takes his second illogical step and explains his concern with another possibility that emerges with female dominance, "Such a home can create an atmosphere leading to homosexuality in sons of such couples. People like to identify with their fathers; this is true of boys and girls. Mother's always there, but father's a treat so his coming home is a special event," Dr. Steiner explained.

Dr. Steiner went on to say that although he neither condones nor condemns homosexuality, he does rate "homosexuals as being among the world's unhappiest people" and refers to a survey conducted by the Mattachine Society in which 300 homosexuals were asked, "Would you want your son to be a homosexual?" Dr. Steiner continued by saying that "most homosexuals tend to wallow in self-pity. But all of them generally blame their condition on home problems during childhood and adolescence, and on their parents."

The rest of the article brought in what I will call the pseudo-Christian considerations on the implications of homosexuality to one's soul. We can breathe a sigh of relief according to Dr. Steiner because of a catch-all phrase in the New Testament that asserts that "Whosoever (I guess he means that this includes us-) believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The main thrust of this article was responded to by a letter-to-the-editor by Bobby Bailey, a Mattachine member-at-large. This was printed by the Courier Express and appears below.

HOMOSEXUAL DISPUTES CONTENTIONS BY DOCTOR

Editor: I am writing in regard to your recent article entitled, "Women's Lib Chain Reaction Worries 'Hotline' Doctor," the reference being to Dr. Oliver J. Steiner. I'd like to state that he could not have gotten his information concerning the question: Would you like your son to be a homosexual? from the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier. This chapter of the Mattachine Society conducted no such survey.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Mattachine Society monthly meeting dates have been reorganized as follows:

- I. 1) A structured business meeting is held once a month, with full committee reports and a prepared agenda; the agenda published in the FIFTH FREEDOM, in advance, whenever possible.
 - 2) A 'program meeting' is held once a month in lieu of a second business meeting-which consists of an informative and interesting program, widely advertised beforehand.
 - a) this does not preclude the possibility of calling a special, abbreviated meeting on Program Meeting nights to deal with agenda items of an emergency nature.
- II. 1) The Business Meeting is held on the 1st Sunday of each calendar month, and the Program Meeting is held on the 3rd Sunday of each calendar month.
- a) this discontinues the pattern of meetings every two weeks
 - b) the schedule avoids any real conflict with all major holiday weekends except Labor Day, but the meetings will be scheduled on the 2nd & 4th Sundays in September, as that month has 5 Sundays.
- 2) The new schedule took effect Sunday, March 3rd.

RATIONALE: Based on past experience, every-other-week meetings have not generated the amount of interest necessary to keep attendance and participation at satisfactory levels. The accustomed pattern of scheduled meetings has not adequately allowed for interesting and informative programs, nor vigorous and productive business meetings. By seeking to reorganize the pattern of meeting dates, it is hoped that we can engender more interest in the workings of our organization and develop a schedule which would seem to be more compatible with the workload of those members which hold positions of responsibility within the organization.

- III. 1) Board Meetings continue to be held twice a month on the Tuesday preceding each Sunday meeting date.

WIN DINNER FOR TWO

WIN DINNER FOR TWO

If MSNF is to achieve all of its goals for 1974, we must increase our membership. A membership drive is being held to get more members into the organization. The drive is in the form of a contest. The member who gets the most people to become a member will win dinner for two at the Cloisters Restaurant on Delaware Ave.

The rules of the contest are as follows:

The contest starts at the General MSNF meeting on March 3rd, and will end at the April 21st MSNF meeting

Expired memberships must be at least six months delinquent to count as a new membership.

Only full \$10.00 memberships will count.

In case of a tie, the flip of a coin will decide the winner.

Contact Don Fenton at the G.C.S.C. to sign up new members.

Dance and Mini-Carnival
Sat. Mar. 16th 9-1 AM

Unitarian Hall, corner of Elmwood and W. Ferry

\$1.00 Admission

75¢ for members with cards

FUN AND PRIZES

March 6, 1974

Dear Editor;

This write-up was in last Sunday's New York Times. I think it's a very good one, and that Gays in our area should be informed about this movie BUSTING and the other. We as Gays should boycott such movies, but we can't if we don't know about them. Why should we pay \$3.00 to be offended in a public theatre. I enjoy your paper very much each month. And when you used to give book reviews, that was very good. It gave a person some insight to what a certain book was about, and he knew from your reviews if he wanted to read it or not. I have sent two very good books to the Mattachine in the last month, Maurice and THE LORD IS MY SHEPARD, AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY by Troy Perry. Why don't you recommend these two books to your readers. Mr. Perry's book would help a great many of us not only with what he has to say, but it would give all of us the courage we need in this world. Thank you for listening to me.

Gary C. Dashineau

The article that Gary is referring to was a critique by Arthur Bell of two movies that deal with homosexuality, BUSTING, directed by Peter Hyam and starring Elliott Gould and Robert Blake and THE LAUGHING POLICEMAN, directed by Stuart Rosenberg and starring Walter Matthau and Bruce Dern. BUSTING said Bell, "creates a feeling of revulsion among gay liberationists, but instead of submitting silently (as before) we now yell 'slander' for BUSTING has as much to do with our contemporary lives as, say 'Little Miss Marker, Bride of Frankenstein, or Call of the Wild.'"

The movie BUSTING contains all the stereotypic images of homosexuality that we are used to encountering—"cartoon figures with dolled up faces, fluttering eyelashes and limp wrists." The film is replete with derogatory anti-gay language.

The second film commented upon by Bell—THE LAUGHING POLICEMAN depicts the actions of a gay murderer. Bell implies, however, that he doesn't object to this film "one bit" because the killer just happens to be homosexual and does not
(con't to p.14)

kill because of his homosexuality. This article is in the G.C.S.C. Library and I recommend that everyone read it in its entirety. Gary has also brought up another good point about book reviews for the magazine. I agree and if any of our friends or readers read a piece of gay literature I would appreciate it if you'd send a review to the FIFTH FREEDOM. Gary mentions some particular books that he feels should be recommended to our readers. I would recommend MAURICE as good reading but I caution you against books by Troy Perry. Jack Nichols and Siege Clark authors of "I HAVE MORE FUN WITH YOU THAN WITH ANYBODY," -an excellent book say "If religion is a crutch, then Troy Perry is a brand new wheelchair." Their opinion (and many others') is that Mr. Perry sees God as loving him in spite of his gayness. Books that I can recommend are THE GAY MISTIQUE by Peter Fisher and SOCIETY AND THE HEALTHY HOMOSEXUAL by Dr. George Weinberg.

Gary--Thanks for writing.

The Editor

(con't from p.9)

He also stated that homosexuals tend to wallow in self-pity and we blame our condition on home problems during our childhood. He has no right to say that most homosexuals do this.

I am a homosexual and I'm very proud of it. I for one do not have any problem being a homosexual nor do I wallow in self-pity. I had a very good life as a child. I have no problem getting along with my parents, brothers, or sisters. I still love them and they love and accept me and my homosexuality.

As for Dr. Steiner's question: "would you want your son to be a homosexual?" I'll let him make that decision himself.

Homosexuality is not a sickness but a different way of life Dr. Steiner doesn't understand, even being a doctor. I don't expect him to, though because he is not a homosexual.

I feel that if Dr. Steiner wants to know about homosexuals, he should talk with members of the Mattachine Society. I for one would like to rap with him about this and I know a lot of other members would like to talk to him about our life as homosexuals.

BOBBY BAILEY

The Bar Issue

they can provide a better atmosphere for gays without fear of the S.I.A or the Vice Squad. In future articles, we will attempt to sort fact from fiction on all levels through more detailed examination with the bar owners, the State Liquor Authority, and the Buffalo Police Vice Squad.

MAXL'S

MAXL'S - PROUDLY PROUDLY PRESENTS

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BACK TO DARK AGES

A Bill that "Would declare the abnormal condition of homosexuality in humans to be a disease or illness" has been introduced in the Missouri House of Representatives. This Bill would require any person whose "position requires first hand contact with persons under 21 years of age, and who is afflicted with the homosexual disease, to re-

FULL PAGE
COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR
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port that condition to the division of health, which would maintain a list of all such persons." (from the ADVOCATE, March 13, 1974)



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